

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

أَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ كَمَا هُوَ أَهْلُهُ وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى سَيِّدِ وَدِدِ أَدَمَ كَمَا يُحِبُّ وَيَرْضَى بِأَنْ يُصَلَّى عَلَيْهِ

Allah Almighty, in Whose Name we begin, The Most Compassionate,  
The Most Merciful

All Praise is due to Allah Almighty, Countless Peace and Blessings be upon  
His Beloved Messenger – *may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him* – his family & his  
companions – *may Allah be pleased with them all*

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## The Mercy of the Holy Prophet

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Abu Mutarraf narrates that he noticed that someone had presented a person in front of Hadrat Sayyiduna Ali - *may Allah be pleased with him* - and people claimed that this person had stolen a camel.

When Hadrat Sayyiduna Ali - *may Allah be pleased with him* - confronted this person, he said, "It is my opinion that you did not steal the camel."

However, the person replied that he had indeed stolen the camel.

Hadrat Sayyiduna Ali - *may Allah be pleased with him* – again said to him, "Perhaps you are still in some doubt about this issue." However, again the person replied that he had indeed stolen the camel."

Hadrat Sayyiduna Ali - *may Allah be pleased with him* - then declared, “O Qambar! Take this person and tie him up. Prepare a fire and call the person who cuts off the hand of people. However, do not do anything until and unless I return.”

After a short while, Hadrat Sayyiduna Ali - *may Allah be pleased with him* - returned. He again approached the person asked him whether he had stolen the camel and the person admitted that he had not stolen the camel.

Hadrat Sayyiduna Ali - *may Allah be pleased with him* - then asked the people to release him.

The people then asked, “O Ameerul Mo’mineen! Why did you release this person in spite of the fact that he had admitted to stealing?”

The great Muslim leader replied, “I had him arrested because he had admitted to stealing the camel and I had him released because he had admitted that he had not stolen the camel.”

Hadrat Sayyiduna Ali - *may Allah be pleased with him* - then narrated the following incident. He narrates:

A person was brought into the blessed presence of the Holy Prophet - *may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him* - who was accused to stealing.

The Holy Prophet - *may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him* - commanded that his hand should be chopped off. After this, the Holy Prophet - *may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him* - wept a lot. I asked him, ‘O Prophet of Allah! Why do you weep?’

The Holy Prophet - *may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him* -replied, ‘Why should I not weep when the hand of one of my Ummati is being chopped off by you people?’

The blessed Ashaab then said, ‘O Prophet of Allah! Why did you not pardon the person?’

He replied, 'He is indeed a most evil leader who ignores the rule of law. You people should display forgiveness among yourselves and do not allow it to come to me.'" (Abu Ya'la Kanz, Hayaat As Sahaabah)

Hence, the reason that Hadrat Sayyiduna Ali - *may Allah be pleased with him* - displayed a wait and see attitude was that he wanted to give this person enough time to think about his decision and when the person finally admitted that he had not stolen, it became the perfect excuse to pardon the person and have him released. This also proves the amazing mercy which the Holy Prophet - *may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him* - has for his beloved Ummah.

There is a story of a person who used to be always found guilty of drinking alcohol. At the same time, he had immense love and respect for Allah Almighty and His beloved Prophet - *may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him*. One day, when they were lashing him in public, a few drops of blood fell on one of the onlookers and he began to curse this person for his continued breaking of the law. However, the Holy Prophet - *may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him* - declared that this person should not be cursed because he is someone who loves Allah Almighty and His Prophet - *may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him*.

This again proves the fact that indeed, the Holy Prophet - *may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him* - is certainly a mercy for the universe. Advice was given to the blessed Ashaab to work things out among themselves so that the decision of whether this person should be punished is not brought directly to the blessed court of the Holy Prophet - *may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him*.